

EXCLUSIVELY YOURS



CIA Director Raborn Unworried; Al Lerner's Next Musical

BY BETTY BEALE

CIA Director and Mrs. William Raborn were at the last White House dinner and the admiral looked exceedingly well considering the barrage of columnists' criticism he has been getting on his administration of the government's sleuthing business. When he was asked how he was holding up under these attacks, he grinned and dealt a lethal reply:

"My specialty is foreign intelligence. I don't read the domestic papers."

ALLEN LERNER, the attractive one-time roommate of Jack Kennedy, who keeps turning out such hits as "My Fair Lady," "Camelot," "On a Clear Day," expressed great admiration for Mrs. Lyndon Johnson when she stepped up to the microphone in the East Room that night to introduce the evening's entertainer, Tammy Grimes.

"The warmth that exudes from Mrs. Johnson is such that you are just wrapped up in it like a cocoon. And she is so bright — in the best way," he said.

Al's next musical is going to be about Coco Chanel, the amazing septuagenarian who has reigned like a queen for decades over the predominantly male fashion designers of Paris. He got the idea five years ago when he lunched with her in Paris every day for a month. It won't be a musical on the haute couture so much as the story of a remarkable woman.

HUGH O'BRIAN, who is charming, handsome and pretty devastating to women, said that en route to the White House party he worked on his book that is coming out in the spring. What timing?

It will fall in the hands of other men just at the season when we poor unsuspecting females are most susceptible to their wiles. A handbook for scheming bachelors who have been chalking up quite a record without it, it will be called "The Firm Approach and the Gentle Exit."

Hugh was just back from touring U.S. outposts in Viet Nam, where he found a marvelous spirit among our soldiers.

"There are no boys in Viet Nam, only men," said Hugh, who is all steamed up over his idea of starting a village adoption system in South Viet Nam by American towns. One of our cities would take on the problem of supplying necessities for one of theirs, helping morale in both places. It's a terrific idea, and he was seeing the authorities at the State Department about it the next day.

Speaking of Tammy Grimes, this was the second time that White House Social Secretary Bess Abell, who lines up talent for presidential musicales, has tried out a night-club type singer in the palatially formal gold and white East Room. Seeking diversity in entertainment, and something light, since all people are not devoted to long-haired music, may be commendable — especially for an all-American political gathering which comprised the White House guest list that night.

But, once again, it was obvious that the elegant, historical atmosphere is simply not right for it — and more than one guest made such an observation.

NOT EVEN J. EDGAR HOOVER can get into the White House without identifying himself. The long-time head of the FBI, whose face is familiar to everybody in Washington and a good portion of the entire country, was required to identify himself to the White House guard at the south entrance by showing the dinner invitation with his name on it before he could get in.

If the man who has his finger on every criminal in the country has to be carefully checked, certainly nobody else — however well known — should kick about producing credentials when visiting 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

QUIET, PIPE-SMOKING Senate Leader Mike Mansfield came in for some high praise the other day. It was especially impressive, since it came from a very conservative member of the opposition. Republican Sen. John Tower of Texas said of the Majority Leader:

"He is one of the most honorable men I have ever known. . . . I would never consciously do anything to personally embarrass or hurt Mike Mansfield."

The intelligent and articulate small-statured Tower said he also regarded another liberal Democrat as a friend. He was speaking of Minnesota's Sen. Eugene McCarthy, who was once described by Sen. Paul Douglas of Illinois as "The world's greatest master of the undersell."

Explained John Tower, "I respect intellectual honesty whether a man agrees or disagrees with me."

The Texas senator was also in Viet Nam recently. Just before Christmas he visited An Khe in the central highlands and found our soldiers, he said, not talking about shooting but about forming a Boy Scout troop in the area to help the Vietnamese youngsters. He was tremendously pleased and impressed by this.

ANITA COLBY, who is so beautiful she's known as "the face" but has managed to keep her spinsterhood status, will send to the publisher this week her latest book. It will be entitled "The Ageless Woman," and it will be, says Anita, a book of substance that deals with spiritual values as well as other facets of the kind of woman that stays alive even as she grows chronologically older.

As for Anita's opinion of "The Feminine Mystique," the book about women that was a top topic a couple of years ago, it was not one that will warm the air between her and its author, Betty Friedan. Said La Colby:

"'The Feminine Mystique' was a feminine mistake."

EMILIO PUCCI, the Italian marchese who

keeps women in pants and prints, doesn't take credit for putting them in pants, but says he made "the first good pants."

He also explains why it is we keep looking in vain for Paris, Italian, or Spanish designers to come out with a line of clothes that really fit the torso. It seems somewhat contradictory, but this is what Pucci says:

"Fitted clothes never show the shape of a body. They show the shape of a girdle. Take a man's cashmere sweater and put a naked girl in it, and it would be too big but every motion and the shape of the body would be evident. It would be more naked and more revealing than a bathing suit."

As for trends, he said the fashion pendulum swings from specific and extreme things but there is a fashion that is more and more acceptable today and that is a practical fashion adapted to our way of life.

To me, says this creator of style (he frowns on the word designer as anyone can design a dress), "fashion is moving always more toward where you have the full awareness of the evidence of a body without seeing the detail." The man who made the first sack 10 years ago says now, "of course, it was very primitive in a way."

There have been only two revolutions in women's attire, claims the marchese. "After World War I, Chanel took women out of costumes and put them in modern dress. And after World War II, I effected a new revolution. I put women in clothes intended for open air activity — for the kind of life we live today."

So, girls, pants are here to stay.

BEST DESCRIPTION of Washington last weekend came from an airline ticket man in Chicago's O'Hare Airport. "Don't even speak to me about it," he told disgruntled passengers trying to get to the Nation's Capital. "Washington is a national disaster."